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ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 040894-7453

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:	)	
	)	
Takao HASEGAWA <i>et al.</i>	)	
	)	
Application No.: 10/581,197	)	Group Art Unit: 3721
	)	
Filed: June 1, 2006	)	Examiner: Unassigned
	)	
For: <b>STAPLING APPARATUS</b>	)	

Commissioner for Patents  
**MAIL STOP AMENDMENT**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO-1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

The listed documents were cited in a European Search Report dated October 8, 2007. A copy of the European Search Report is enclosed for the Examiner's consideration. A copy of each listed foreign document is attached for the Examiner's consideration.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

The following are listed on the accompanying PTO-1449 and are in a language other than English:

a. DE 84519: The relevance of this document can be understood from the European Search Report and the figures therein.

b. DE 1 028 083: The relevance of this document can be understood from the European Search Report and the figures therein.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If it should be determined that the listed documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of the documents. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

**MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Goodell', is written over a horizontal line.

Robert J. Goodell, Reg. No. 41,040

Date: November 26, 2007

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